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SUMMARY

GENERAL

1. Pro-Communist Indian delegate ostensibly has free hand in UN Korean talks (page 3).
2. East Germany held unable to supplant Bonn in Arab market (page 3).

FAR EAST

25X1

5. Chinese Nationalist Air Force increases fighter potential (page 5).

SOUTHEAST ASIA

6. Thai Prime Minister seen responsible for drive against Communists (page 5).

WESTERN EUROPE

7. Comment on status of transport to West Berlin (page 6).

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GENERAL

1. Pro-Communist Indian delegate ostensibly has free hand in UN Korean talks:

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[REDACTED] Indian Foreign Secretary Nehru told the [REDACTED] on 13 November that V. K. Krishna Menon, Indian delegate to the UN, "has a free hand" in the current talks on Korea. Nehru also said there had been no communications between Delhi and Peiping concerning Menon's talks in New York.

25X1

Comment: Krishna Menon, long a fellow-traveler, appears to be playing a leading role in the Korean discussions now going on at the UN. It is not likely that he would be allowed to proceed without some instructions from his government. Even if there have been no communications between Delhi and Peiping, he could be informed of Peiping's position through the Soviet delegates to the UN with whom he is known to have been in contact.

2. East Germany held unable to supplant Bonn in Arab market:

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[REDACTED] American authorities in Berlin consider it highly unlikely that East Germany could "fill the gap" created by any Arab League embargo on West German exports. They do not take seriously reports of an East German bid to replace West Germany in the Arab market.

These officials believe that the Egyptian representative in East Germany has either been misled or misinformed if, as reported, he has advised Cairo that East Germany is prepared both to import Egyptian cotton and to supply goods previously exported from West Germany.

- 3 -

25X1A

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25X1A

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Comment: Although it is likely that existing foreign trade and internal rearmament demands are placing a considerable strain on the East German economy, the suggestion of an East German trade offer may be instrumental in increasing Arab-West German tension.

The Bonn government, meanwhile, plans soon to send an economic-political mission to the Arab capitals to discuss trade possibilities.

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5. Chinese Nationalist Air Force increases fighter potential:

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The recent arrival of 25 conventional fighter aircraft has "furnished a necessary and important tonic to Chinese Nationalist Air Force personnel," according to the American Air Attache in Taipei. This first shipment since 1949 of aircraft consigned to China under the United States aid program will increase by 20 percent the Chinese Nationalist Air Force potential.

Comment: This brings to 326 the number of Chinese Nationalist conventional combat aircraft on Formosa. The CNAF has no jet fighters.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

6. Thai Prime Minister seen responsible for drive against Communists:

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Prime Minister Phibun is believed to have ordered Police Director General Phao to carry out the recent round-up of Communists and fellow-travelers in Bangkok after the latter had "dragged his feet" in dealing with the problem.

The American Ambassador believes that the recent arrests may well be the first important step toward implementing Thailand's anti-Communist program "after four years of hollow promises."

- 5 -

25X1A

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WESTERN EUROPE

7. Comment on status of transport to West Berlin:

The volume of traffic between Western Germany and West Berlin has shown a steady increase in 1952 despite the closing of the Rothensee canal lock and intermittent Soviet harassment of road and rail facilities to the city. Although canal shipments dropped off 50 percent during August when the Rothensee lock was first closed and low water prevailed in the alternate route, they are now moving at near normal rates. Rail transport has remained almost constant in volume, and road traffic in October reached an all-time high.

In view of this situation, the Soviet Control Commission is in a position to justify a denial of Allied requests for additional rail transport facilities.

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